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PATENT  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-7484

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Kenji KOBAYASHI ) Confirmation No.: 3932  
Application No.: 10/588,953 ) Group Art Unit: 3677  
Filed: June 1, 2007 ) Examiner: Lavinder, Jack W.  
For: BINDING PIECE AND BINDING )  
APPARATUS )

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows.